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April 27, 1987

TO: Noncoal File

FROM: Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor/Reclamation Hydrologist *DWH*

RE: Inspection Visit, Sevier Dry Lake Project, PRO/027/008,
Millard County, Utah

On June 4, 1986, Division members, D. Wayne Hedberg and James Leatherwood visited the proposed site for the Sevier Dry Lake Project, PRO/027/008, Millard County, Utah. The Division staff met Mr. Murry C. Godbe in Delta, Utah and traveled to the site which was located approximately 64 miles south, southwest of Delta. The purpose of the field visit was to inspect the location of the proposed barrow areas for the fill material which will be used in the diking of the south arm of the Sevier Dry Lake. The barrow pit area is located in state Sec. 32, T 22 S, R 11 W, SLBM. The site was located with some difficulty as there were no developed roads into section 32 at this point in time. We were able to drive within approximately 1 1/2 to 2 miles of the site, from there we walked into the proposed location. An ephemeral drainage bisected the highly erodible soils in the general area the proposed disturbance. The drainage was immediately adjacent to the proposed barrow site and provided a good location to obtain a series of soil samples. The embankments were very steeply incised to, a six (6) foot depth. Three samples were taken, one at the 0-6 inch category, another at 48 inches, and the third at 60 inches.

Several pictures were taken in the location of the barrow area of the vegetation. The following vegetation types were noted: shadscale, fringed sage, mormon tea, cheatgrass, indian rice grass, horehound, halogeton, prickly pear cactus, globe mallow, crested wheat grass, great basin wildrye, needle & thread grass, rubber rabbitbrush, green rabbitbrush, ephedra nevadensis, broom snakeweed and a number of unidentified species of the mustard family and some additional grass species. Princess plume was also identified in the general vicinity. The area does receive rather heavy grazing pressure from sheep. Heavily browsed vegetation was noted. Limited wildlife use was evident in the area. Several pictures were taken of the proposed alignment for the dike which is to be constructed. The material to be excavated as fill for the dike is a fine grained lacustrine and alluvial deposit. It appeared to be relatively high in clay and silt content with decreasing coarse material the closer

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one travels towards the lake away from the mountains and foot hills. The soil surface showed prominent cracking due to the clay fraction. There also was some criptogamic soil crusting noted in the area. The vegetative canopy cover was ocularly estimated at approximately 35-40%. The operator, Mr. Godbe, did not accompany the Division representatives out to the proposed site. He was engaged in arranging a tour for some business associates and was not available to walk into the site. Due to the low precipitation of this barren sight the erosion potential is not expected to be significant enough to warrant extra ordinary erosion control measures once construction activities begin. There should be sufficient buffer in the surrounding area to compensate and control any significant erosion which may occur during the construction of the dike and excavation of the barrow pit areas. Normal drainage and erosion control measures should be adequate.

jvb
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